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DE RUEHKT #2596 3320852
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 280852Z NOV 05
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9272
INFO RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA IMMEDIATE 9011
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE 1938
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 8849
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE 3975
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 3393
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE 3701
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 002596

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [MCAP](#) [PTER](#) [NP](#)
SUBJECT: CHINA MILITARY ASSISTANCE ARRIVES

REF: KATHMANDU 2516

Classified By: CDA Elisabeth I. Millard, Reason 1.4 (b/d)

Chinese Military Aid Arrived - But What Is It?

11. (C) On November 25, Kantipur News, a private media organization, broke the news that Nepal had received 18 truckloads of military equipment from China. An initial RNA statement posted on-line said that the trucks contained lethal and non-lethal assistance. However, within hours that statement was withdrawn and an edited version said only that non-lethal military hardware had arrived. The outgoing RNA spokesperson, Brig. Gen. Deepak Gurung, told the press that it was a regular shipment that contained only non-lethal assistance. However, according to the Indian Defense Attache, the shipment contained 4 million rounds of 7.62mm ammunition, which can be used in the RNA's self-loading rifles (carried by about half of its soldiers). The Director of Military Intelligence avoided answering our questions requesting more information about the shipment.

Comment

12. (C) We will continue to seek confirmation of the shipment's actual content. The RNA's silence allows the government to continue to play the China card. Even if the shipment contained lethal assistance, including SLR ammunition, the RNA still has not solved its problem of acquiring more ammunition for its INSAS rifles and M-16s, the weapons about half of its soldiers carry and which use 5.56mm caliber ammunition. Embassy has also learned that COAS Thapa will travel December 12-17 to Pakistan, where he may seek to take up Pakistan's offer of military assistance.
MILLARD